

Rules of the Bury St Edmunds & District Table Tennis League.

Terms of reference

1. The League shall be called The Bury St Edmunds And District Table Tennis League, hereinafter referred to as "The League". It shall be affiliated to both the Suffolk and English Table Tennis Associations.

The objects of the League shall be :-

- 2a. To conduct annual championship competition between affiliated teams.
- 2b. To organise an annual singles and doubles tournament.
- 2c. Where possible, to assist and encourage the development of table tennis in Bury St Edmunds and district.

Composition of committee

- 3a. The business of the League shall be conducted by a committee consisting of Fourteen members, namely Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, Tournament Secretary, County Committee Representative, Coaching Secretary, Press Secretary, League Welfare Officer, Trophy Secretary and three committee members. The committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3b. In the event of a committee vacancy occurring before the next A.G.M. the committee shall have the authority to appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy.
- 3c. The quorum necessary for the transaction of league business shall be five.

Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.)

4. The Annual General Meeting will be held before the end of May. Other General Meetings being called, if deemed necessary by the committee.

Registration fees

- 5a. The annual registration fee for each team shall be fixed at the A.G.M.
- 5b. All players must be registered for a team at a cost determined at the A.G.M. (Juniors at half that cost).
- 5c. The committee may increase the registration fee by an amount equal to any additional levy imposed by the Suffolk T.T.A. and English T.T.A. without recourse to the A.G.M.

Accounts

- 6a. The Treasurer shall produce a set of audited accounts for examination at the A.G.M.
- 6b. The Secretary shall receive an honorarium as fixed at the A.G.M.
- 6c. An Auditor will be elected at the A.G.M.
- 6d. The League's financial year shall end April 30th.

Team registration

- 7a. Teams will register for a playing season on official forms issued by the committee.
- 7b. All teams must specify before the seasons starts the day of the week when they intend playing home matches and fixtures will be made accordingly.
- 7c. Teams entering the League will be allocated a division at the discretion of the committee.

Player registration

- 8a. All players must register for membership of the English Table Tennis Association either prior to commencement of the season or prior to playing if applying to join the BSE&DTTL during the season. This should be done through the ETTA website or through their clubs.
- 8b. Players will be deemed to have individually registered for their team by having their name, address, telephone number, e-mail address if they have one, previous playing experience including league representation, and if a

junior or veteran age group on the team registration form.

8c. If after a team has been allocated to a division they wish to register a player who in the current or previous season was registered for a team in a higher division, then he/she will be restricted to playing only six matches in the current season for his/her new team. Subject to this restriction the conditions in rule 8d apply.

8d. Should a team wish to register further players during the first half of the playing season, they should submit to the Match Secretary an official registration form, at least 24 hours before playing in a match. Teams wishing to register further players, once the first half league fixtures have been completed, must apply to the committee for clearance on an official registration form. No player may play until clearance is given in writing. There is no limit to the number of players a team may register.

8e. Where a club has more than one team in the league, and in different divisions, players registered for a club team in a lower division may play four matches for only one other club team competing in any of the higher divisions. If any player plays a fifth game in the higher division they will automatically be re-registered in that team and may not play again for the team in the lower division during the current season. Players from the team in the higher division may not play any games for the team in the lower division. When a club has more than one team in the same division, players may compete for their registered team only.

8f. An ineligible player shall forfeit any game/games in which he/she participates.

Transfer of players

9. A player wishing to transfer from one team to another must apply in writing to the committee for permission. Such applications must be accompanied by written permission of the player's present team/club secretary.

Match procedure

10a. The home team captain shall enter his players' names first on the scorecard before any play commences, although the doubles pairing may be omitted until that event is due. Matches in a 3 player division shall consist of nine singles events (each player playing every member of the opposing team) in the order shown numerically on the official score card, and one doubles event. Matches in a 2 player division shall consist of four singles events (each player playing every member of the opposing team) in the order shown numerically on the official score card, and one doubles event. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to submit the match result card signed by both team captains, to an address given by the committee at the beginning of the season.

10b. Any team that fails to fulfil three successive fixtures shall be expelled from the League.

10c. Match points shall be awarded on the basis of one point per event won.

10d. If two teams tie on points for and against, the one with most matches won shall be adjudged the winner, however in the event both teams are level on wins the one with the least number of matches lost shall prevail. If teams still cannot be separated the number of sets won by each team throughout the season will if necessary decide the final outcome.

10e. Time-outs are not allowed in any league match or any other competition organised by the League Committee.

Colour of ball used in matches

11. The colour of the ball to be used shall be selected by the home team. However, if the venue of the match has walls which are of a predominantly white or light colour the home team shall offer the away team the option of playing with an orange ball. Once the colour of the ball is decided upon then the same colour must be used throughout the whole of the match.

Match postponement

12a. It is the League's wish that there should be no postponement of matches. If however, a team wishes to request a postponement due to unforeseen circumstances, its captain must reach agreement with the opposition captain, and both captains must try to arrange an alternative date which may be before the original date for the match. A change of venue will be acceptable to the League if both captains are in agreement.

12b. For fixtures originally scheduled before 31 December any rearranged match must be played by 31 January.

For fixtures originally scheduled after 1 January any rearranged match must be played within 7 days of the end of the final league fixture week, as published in the handbook. However in the event of adverse weather conditions the committee have the authority to rule that additional time be given to complete fixtures originally scheduled for either or both the first and second half of the season.

12c. Should, for whatever reason, a rearranged fixture fail to be completed by the dates in Rule 12b, the team which originally requested the postponement will forfeit the match 0-10 for a 3 player division fixture or 0-5 for a 2 player division fixture.

12d. All matches shall commence at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise under team details or mutually agreed otherwise. Any player not present by 8.15pm regardless of the starting time, shall forfeit his/her games unless the two clubs agree before the beginning of the match that any particular player or players may be late.

Disputes

13. Any dispute that may arise concerning a match, whether from the rules or otherwise, must be fully stated in writing by both teams to the match secretary within three days of the appointed match date. If a team fails to contact the match secretary it will be assumed they have no case to make. The matter will be dealt with by the committee at its next meeting.

Promotion and relegation

14a. When there is more than one division of the League, and if there are nine or more teams in each division, the leading two teams of each lower division shall be promoted to their next highest division at the commencement of the next season. The two teams at the bottom of each higher division shall be relegated to their next lower division at the commencement of the next season.

14b. When there is more than one division of the League, and if there are eight or fewer teams in each division, the leading team of each lower division shall be promoted to their next highest division at the commencement of the next season. The team at the bottom of each higher division shall be relegated to their next lower division at the commencement of the next season.

14c. When there is more than one division of the League, and if there are eight or fewer teams in one division and nine or more teams in another division, the committee shall have the authority to decide whether one or two teams shall be promoted to and relegated from each division.

14d. When it is deemed desirable to increase or decrease the numbers of teams in a division, the committee shall have the authority to adjust the numbers of teams promoted and/or relegated.

Singles and doubles tournament

15a. A player who is registered with any other senior league, or plays for their town, or their county, at any level other than Cadet, will not be eligible to enter the championships unless they have played at least five matches for their team in the league competition in the current season prior to the draw being made before the championships.

15b. Handicaps for the tournaments and Saffrons Shield competitions shall be based on a player's performance in the first half of the current season unless the player concerned has not played sufficient games to give a true indication of his/her ability or he/she has been playing in a division below his/her normal standard. Then the committee will fix his/her handicap based on any information at their disposal.

15c. If the committee feels there are insufficient ladies entered to effectively play the Ladies Singles and/or Ladies Doubles then the Mens Singles and/or Doubles will be converted to Open Singles and/or Doubles and the ladies who have entered will be given the option to play in these events instead.

Matters not covered by these rules

16. The committee shall have authority to decide any matter upon which these rules are silent.

Alterations to rules

17a. These rules shall only be altered or rescinded by members present at the A.G.M. with a consent of at least two-thirds of those members present.

17b. Any proposed alteration or addition to the rules must be submitted in writing to the Secretary before 1st April. The person proposing the alteration or addition must also be present at the A.G.M. to explain their

proposal.

17c. Any such proposed alteration or addition to the rules must be circulated by the committee to secretaries of the member clubs at least 14 days before the annual general meeting.